

The Care Inspectorate's statutory obligations under the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 ("the Act") can be summarised as follows:-

- To further the improvement in the quality of social services.
- To provide information to the public about the availability and quality of social services
- To provide advice to the Scottish Ministers.
- To provide advice when asked to do so, about any matter relevant to the functions of the Care Inspectorate to:-
 - persons who provide, seek to provide, or may seek to provide social services; persons, or groups of persons, representing those who use, or are eligible to use, social services; persons, or groups of persons, representing those who care for those who use, or are eligible to use, social services; local authorities; health bodies; and such other persons, or groups of persons, as may be prescribed.
- To consider applications for registration according to the terms of the Act and relevant regulations, and to grant or refuse registration on that basis.
- To consult on, prepare and keep under review, and from time to time, revise (with the approval of the Scottish Ministers) a plan for carrying out inspections of social services in accordance with best regulatory practice.
- To carry out inspections of any social service, or the organisation or co-ordination of any social services in accordance with its inspection plan.
- To take into account the national care standards and the Scottish Social Services Council's codes of conduct and practice in making decisions
- To establish, following consultation (including consultation with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman) a complaints procedure for complaints about the provision of a care service.
- To make arrangements which both secure continuous improvement in user focus in the exercise of its scrutiny functions, and demonstrate that improvement.
- To co-operate and co-ordinate activity with a range of other bodies specified by statute and, where appropriate, with the Scottish Ministers with a view to improving the exercise of its scrutiny functions in relation to social work, child protection and children's services and care services, having regard to efficiency, effectiveness and economy.
- To engage in joint inspections with a range of other bodies specified by statute, at the request of the Scottish Ministers

The Care Inspectorate must exercise its functions in accordance with the following principles:-

- The safety and welfare of all persons who use, or are eligible to use, care services are to be protected and enhanced;
- The independence of those persons is to be promoted;
- Diversity in the provision of care services is to be promoted with a view to those persons being afforded choice;
- Good practice in the provision of social services is to be identified, promulgated and promoted.